Loss of Forest cover due to Fire in Rajasthan

167. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated annual loss of forest cover due to fire in Rajasthan;

(b) what measures have been taken to prevent and also to control fires in areas where forest fires are frequent; and

(c) what is Government's policy in regard to the development of forests and what are the details of assistance given to the State during the last three years for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Estimated average annual area burnt in forest fires in the past three years in Rajasthan, is 1927 hectares.

(b) The State Forest Department take numerous fire prevention and control measures, such as clearance and maintenance of fire lines, controlled burning, putting out fires that may alight, creatig counter-fires, seeking people's cooperation in preventing and putting out fires etc.

(c) The Government policy in regard to development of forests in the country is protection and augmentation of forest resources. The details of the amounts utilised for the various schemes of afforestation in the State of Rajasthan in the last three years are as under:—

Year	Amount utilised (Rs. in lakhs)
1985-86	1536.80
1986-87	3376.13
1987-88	2847.84

Encashment of Currency Notes Marked for Destruction

168. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item of August 9, 1988 published in the Bombay edition of the 'Times of India' to the effect that a large number of soiled and non-issuable currency notes marked out for destruction have been again received and exchanged for fresh notes at the Bhubaneshwar office of the Reserve Bank of India after the introduction of short-cut methods to destroy the mutilated notes like Emergency Procedure (E.P.), Modified Procedure (M.P.) and Special Procedure (S.P.); if so, what is the number of such instances that have come to notice and the amount so involved in each case;

(b) whether mutilated notes which had already been replaced at the Patna Office of the Reserve Bank of India but were not burnt, were used again for obtaining fresh notes in the Bhubaneshwar office; if so, what is the amount involved in this case; and

(c) what are the revised guidelines for destruction of such notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Reserve Bank of India has informed that some quantities of cancelled notes in the denomination of Rs. 100/- had been presented at the Reserve Bank of India's Bhubaneshwar Office and payment obtained fraudulently. It was not due to the so-called short-cut method adopted to destroy the notes. In the Bhubaneshwar Office of the Reserve Bank of India, destruction of notes is done under normal procedures. The amount involved in the incident at the Bhubaneshwar office has been assessed at Rs. 12,30,800 comprising